

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A purified polypeptide, consisting essentially of ~~comprising an~~ amino acid ~~sequence selected from the group consisting of:~~

- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ a) sequence SEQ ID No. 2;~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ b) sequence SEQ ID No. 4;~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ c) sequence SEQ ID No. 6;~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ d) sequence SEQ ID No. 8;~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ e) sequence SEQ ID No. 10;~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ f) sequence SEQ ID No. 13;~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ g) sequence SEQ ID No. 15;~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ h) sequence SEQ ID No. 17; and~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ i) sequence SEQ ID No. 19.~~

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Currently amended): A purified polypeptide ~~according to Claim 1~~ comprising an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 2 from residue 110 to residue 310, SEQ ID No. 6 from residue 110 to residue 310, and SEQ ID No. 8 from residue 60 to residue 260.~~

Claim 4. (Previously amended): A polypeptide according to Claim 1, which is produced from an alternative splicing of messenger RNA of a gene coding for said polypeptide.

Claim 5. (Previously amended): A polypeptide according to Claim 1 that is a recombinant polypeptide produced in the form of a fusion protein.

Claims 6-39 (cancelled)

Claim 40. (new): A composition comprising SEQ ID NO:6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.